

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #76**

#### **Summer Announcement #67, Yukon River Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Subsistence**

#### **Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Chinook salmon total run size is currently tracking below the historical average, but should come in above the lower end of the preseason outlook range of 118,000 to 140,000. The 2015 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run was initially projected to be weaker than anticipated. However, Chinook salmon passage estimates at the Eagle sonar project are promising. Through July 16, approximately 22,500 Chinook salmon have been counted at the sonar project, which is above the historical average of 8,100 for this early date. The majority of the Chinook salmon run will have passed by Tanana and Rampart, as of July 21. Summer chum salmon are still present in this area.

Given the increased confidence in meeting escapement objectives and that the fourth pulse of Chinook salmon is now upstream of the area, a subsistence fishing schedule is being established in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C. Beginning Tuesday, July 21, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C will be open on their regulatory schedule with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels for the remainder of the summer season. Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use.

#### **Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

(from the western edge of the mouth of Illinois Creek to the ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles downstream of Waldron Creek):

Currently, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C is closed to conserve Chinook salmon.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C will be open for two 48-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Sundays with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels for the remainder of the summer season. Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use.

Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 60 feet in length to target non-salmon species during subsistence closures.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **1-866-479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Anchorage at 267-2217 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 455-1849.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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